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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/032,811	10/26/2001	Gabriel Padilla	GOTO1100-1	6949
25548	7590	01/26/2005	EXAMINER	
DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US, LLP 4365 EXECUTIVE DRIVE, SUITE 1100 SAN DIEGO, CA 92121-2133			HOSSAIN, TANIM M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2145	

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/032,811	PADILLA, GABRIEL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tanim Hossain	2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/26/01.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 October 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Freiwirth et al (U.S. 2001/0037317).

As per claim 1, Freiwirth teaches a method for the distributed management of networked information, said method comprising: creating a plurality of groups, each corresponding to a number of members (paragraph 0007); establishing links between a number of said plurality of groups to create a network of groups (0011, 0012); designating information access rights associated with said network of groups (0007); and providing member access to networked information in accordance with said information access rights (0007).

As per claim 3, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, further comprising posting a piece of information for member access, wherein said designating step designates information access rights corresponding to specific members (0009, 0010).

As per claim 4, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, further comprising posting a piece of information for member access, wherein said designating step designates information access rights corresponding to at least one of said plurality of groups (0011, 0012).

As per claim 5, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, further comprising posting a piece of information for member access, wherein said designating step designates information access rights corresponding to specific member roles (0009).

As per claim 6, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said creating step is performed in a decentralized manner by a plurality of end users (0007, 0009).

As per claim 7, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said creating step further comprises identifying specific members in at least one of said plurality of groups (0009; where the generated ID constitutes the identification of members).

As per claim 9, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing step establishes two-way links between at least two of said plurality of groups (0049, where the communication from node-to-node constitutes two-way communication).

As per claim 10, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing step establishes one-way links between at least two of said plurality of groups (0070, where the passive viewing of information by the user constitutes one-way links).

As per claim 12, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of groups functions as a collector of networked information maintained on behalf of at least one other group (0081).

As per claim 13, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 12, wherein said at least one of said plurality of groups functions as an originator of networked information (0011).

As per claim 14, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said information access rights are associated with said links, said plurality of groups, and said members (0009).

As per claim 15, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said providing step provides member access to networked information in accordance with group access rights for said plurality of groups and in accordance with link access rights for said links (0081, 0007).

As per claim 16, Freiwirth teaches a method for the distributed management of networked information, said method comprising: establishing a network of linked groups, each group corresponding to a number of members (0081, 0056); designating information access rights for information maintained on behalf of at least one group in said network of linked groups (0008, 0009); and managing distribution of said information to at least some members of at least one group in said network in accordance with said information access rights (0011, 0012).

As per claim 17, Freiwirth teaches a method for the distributed management of networked information, said method comprising: establishing a network of linked groups, each group corresponding to a number of members (0081, 0056); determining a degree of relevance for networked information based at least in part on a group linking structure of said network (0028); and managing distribution of said networked information based on said degree of relevance (0011, 0012).

As per claim 18, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 17, wherein said determining step determines said degree of relevance based at least in part on end user settings (0028).

As per claim 19, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 17, further comprising managing access to said networked information based on said degree of relevance (0028, 0038).

As per claim 20, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 17, further comprising delivering said networked information to member presentation devices in a manner commensurate with said degree of relevance (0044).

As per claim 21, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 17, wherein said determining step determines said degree of relevance based at least in part on the number of linked groups between a first group that maintains said networked information and a second group (0028, 0044).

As per claim 22, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 17, wherein said determining step determines said degree of relevance based at least in part on a data flow path between a first group that maintains said networked information and a second group (0028, 0081, 0044; where the path to the certain other parties authorized to view the information constitutes the data flow path between the groups).

As per claim 23, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 17, further comprising creating context for said networked information in response to routing criteria (0081).

As per claim 24, Freiwirth teaches a method of claim 23, wherein said routing criteria comprises at least one of a data flow path between a first group that maintains said networked information and a second group; the identification of a recipients of said networked information, security settings associated with said networked information; access right associated with said networked information; and interaction of said networked information with members of said linked groups (0081).

As per claim 26, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 23, wherein said creating step is performed using a number of artificial intelligence techniques (0080).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freiwirth et al in view of Dick (U.S. 2001/053986).

As per claim 8, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, further comprising allowing by a first one of said plurality of groups, access rights to resources maintained on behalf of a second one of said plurality of groups (0081). Freiwirth does not specifically teach that these first groups request such access rights. Dick teaches a requestor group requesting access rights to information regarding a group of individuals (paragraph 0028). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the ability of the first group to request information as taught by Freiwirth in the system of Dick. The motivation for doing so lies in the fact that by enabling a request of information, the information can be granted to only those who desire it, allowing for further efficiency of the invention. Both inventions are from the same field of endeavor, namely the retrieval of information through a computer network.

Claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freiwirth in view of Brown, et al (U.S. 5,941,947).

As per claim 2, Freiwirth teaches a method according claim 1, but does not specifically teach the creation of a subgroup out of the existing group. Brown teaches the formation of a group into a subgroup accessing specific information (column 5, lines 10-18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the ability to form a subgroup from a group, as taught by Brown in the system of Freiwirth. The motivation for doing so lies in the fact that it would be necessary to prohibit access to certain types of data, thereby discriminating the group members that can access that data into a subgroup. Both inventions are from the same field of endeavor, namely the network enabled obtaining of specific information.

As per claim 11, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 1, but does not specifically teach the limitation of information obtained by a user from the groups. Brown teaches the limiting of user access to data to prevent the overloading of information (column 1, line 57 – column 2, line 16).

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freiwirth in view of Young (U.S. 2002/0038217).

As per claim 25, Freiwirth teaches a method according to claim 23, but does not specifically teach the use of neural agents to create context. Young teaches the use of neural agents to receive and analyze information (0056). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include neural agents into the process of context creation, as taught by Young in the system of Freiwirth. The motivation for doing so lies in the fact that with the use of neural agents, user-specific, targeted information can be more readily

obtained. Both inventions are from the same field of endeavor, namely the network enabled obtaining of specific information.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

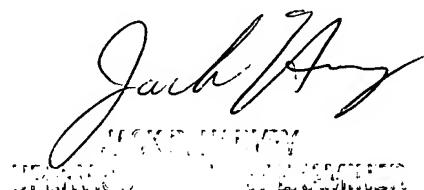
- a. Karaev et al (U.S. 5,802,518) teaches an information delivery system and method.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tanim Hossain whose telephone number is 571/272-3881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Harvey can be reached on 571/272-3896. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tanim Hossain
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2145



Jack Harvey
JACK HARVEY
PATENT EXAMINER
USPTO - CHIEF EXAMINER